

INGLESIDE SEMINARY  
IN PICTURE  
AND STORY

*By*  
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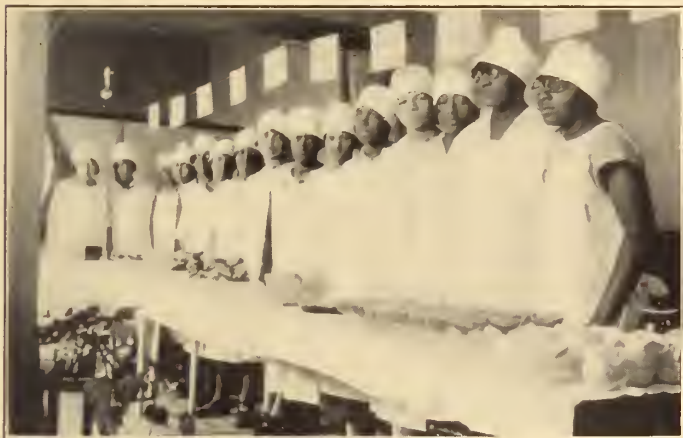
## INGLESIDE SEMINARY IN PICTURE AND STORY

*Claire Pearson Alter*

THIS evening, in spite of the ceaseless downpour, I spent with a friend of long ago. "No mulling over the 'dear old days' the evening you are with me!" she had said in her letter. "I want to know what you have been doing all these years." So, as a sort of tangible evidence of this, I had carried along an envelope of "snapshots," some of which told their own story.

Settled cozily before the hearthstone which the persistent rain made all the more attractive this cool evening, Carolyn began to look over the pictures:

"O, are your meals served on the cafeteria plan?" she



asked, as she picked up a picture showing a number of girls in caps and aprons standing behind a well-filled counter. Then I told her how much pleasure our class in Domestic Science took in their work and the many practical things they did during the term, and how one day there had appeared at each teacher's place at lunch a neat card, announcing "Inglenook Cafeteria open at noon Thursday." (Inglenook is the name of the little four-room apartment we contrived from two large basement rooms and in which our Domestic Science girls do the practical part of their work.) For several Thursdays the faculty's lunch was served in this way and one day we got this picture, showing some of the good things to eat, as well as the girls who had cooked and served them.

"And this—do you have weddings in your school, too?"

"No," I replied, "that is just a little group that was the



center of our sewing exhibit one year. The girls 'made up' a little play that was a wedding rehearsal in part and a showing of the bride's trousseau to her maids. Each girl wore a frock she had made for herself for the summer; in this group the little bride's dress is a white organdie; her maids had voiles in pale colors, their Woolworth hats draped with tarlatan to match; the bouquet holder was made of lace paper doilies from the same well-known store; the bride's veil is also tarlatan."

"Our sewing room is one of the busiest places and not only sewing but appreciation of proper color and lines for the different individuals is being taught, and that all takes time and tact. Several hundred dresses are made each year, not to mention other garments of various kinds. Our Seniors make their Commencement dresses. Even the members of the class completing the grammar grades make the



dresses they wear for their promotion exercises. It really does mean so much to a girl to be able to plan and make her own clothing."

"But let me tell you of this girl," and I pointed out one in a recent senior class, "not for anything remarkable that she has done but just because she is the only person from the village school in a certain community that has completed a high school course during the past thirty years. The man who labored there as teacher all this time died about a year ago and this is the only one of all his pupils that he had the pleasure of seeing finish even a high school course. But another of his pupils is to graduate next year."

"Why such apparent lack of ambition for an education?" she asked me.

"Well," was my answer, "when the school term in many cases is but five, sometimes only four, and in some places only three months in a year, and boys and girls are well in the 'teens' before they can even think of 'going off to boarding school' it takes courage and determination



along with some money. And the money is mighty slow in coming sometimes. One man sold 2,000 pounds of tobacco and had \$13.00 after he had paid the expenses incurred in raising that particular crop. Another cleared exactly \$1.00 from his tobacco—and you have no idea the back-breaking work it is to raise tobacco. Perhaps before long more people will come to the conclusion the man reached who said he had ‘decided to quit foolin’ with the stuff and raise somethin’ that’d do somebody some good.’

“And speaking of determination, please look at this picture and try to imagine her sweet soprano as I heard it not long ago when she sang ‘The Holy City.’ You can more easily imagine that than her plowing on her little farm and doing the other work that usually falls to the farm woman, then somehow finding time to drive to the Seminary in her buggy to get the music lesson each week for which she is hungry.

“This tall, dignified-looking girl is another example of determination. She had been a year in training as a nurse when the State passed a law that all candidates for the R.N. degree must have had at least two years in high school work. Jane’s superin-



tendent is interested in her probationers and talked to me about her taking work here and continuing her training during the summer. She came to us and was able to enter the last year of the grammar grade. She completed that, leading her class, and has now completed her first year of high school. Another year of high school must be completed before she is eligible for her coveted R. N., but she will do it—she's that kind.



“And here's another girl whose aim is the same. She was born and reared in Pennsylvania—in the Pittsburgh district—but was taken out of school when in the fifth grade. When well in her twenties, she determined to become a nurse and, of course, met the same conditions as Jane. She is meeting and conquering them, too. But it is too bad that she is getting this start so late!”

“When your girls are graduated from your school,” asked Carolyn, “what do they do?”

“Figures have not always been available, but because of a ‘Letter Meeting’ we had in the Christian Endeavor last year, planned just so that we might hear from some of the Alumnae, I can tell you now that thirty-nine of the fifty-



eight who have been graduated since we came to Ingleside have been teaching nearly every year since graduation, and are going to school in the summer. Five have married; two are in business; two in training for nurses; four have been in college and several others plan to go when a bit better prepared financially. Six out of this year's class of nine plan to teach.

"But I must tell you of something we did this winter; we really surprised ourselves, for it all had to be done outside of regular school hours and, you must remember, our resources are very limited. The pastor of the little church our students attend on the second and fourth Sundays asked that each class in the Seminary make a contribution to a drive to clear off the church debt. It looked absolutely impossible for us to help, but we set our thinking caps in place.

"As a result a class in the grammar grade decided to make cookies and candy and sell to those who would buy. The second year high school class gave them a splendid opportunity to do this by putting on a play as their way of earning money. The school does not pay admission to these entertainments, but there was a fair crowd from the village and the grammar girls had all too soon sold out 'their best things to eat.' The play was a real success, too.

"The other grammar grade class had also planned an entertainment, but as that looked like 'holding up' the public too often they gave a promissory note for \$15.00 to be paid three months later. This they did with a delightful little entertainment and had some money over which they gave to another school cause that was on foot just then.



"The first year high school girls did some extra work that was sorely needed just then—and that there had seemed no way of doing—and thus earned their money. Juniors and Seniors went together and got up a bazaar, partly of small articles they made, partly of things of their own which they donated. As this was not many weeks before Christmas, it was a real help to many of us for our smaller Christmas remembrances. We turned in as our contribution to the drive \$124.

"And here's a little girl I want you to notice particularly. She has led her class each of the three years she has been at Ingleside with averages for her first three years in high school of respectively 93, 95 and 97. Earnest to an unusual degree, she has the keenest sense of humor I believe I have ever seen in a girl of her age. Yet just in her

simple school girl fashion she's ever giving us food for thought. For instance, she said one day this winter: 'As children grow to manhood and womanhood they always bring about a change in the home either for more happiness or trouble.' Maybe you have heard the idea expressed in just that way—I hadn't.

"This group of fourteen tells a story of much work and achievement in contest work along the lines marked out by the National W. C. T. U. Every girl in the group has won a silver medal; eight of them gold ones; and two of the eight have won grand gold ones. We hope to contest some time for the diamond medal, but it's rather a 'forlorn hope,' as, of course, the girls go far and near after finishing school, and it's hard to get them together for the necessary drill.

"I want to tell you, too, about the work many of our girl do during the summer in the Sunday School Vacation Bands which are organized in our boarding schools by the Sunday School Missionaries. Ingleside has three successive years won the silver loving cup given by Catawba Synod to the Vacation Bible School Band, 'accomplishing the largest results in proportion to its enrollment.' This





*The mothers of these girls were at one time enrolled  
at Ingleside Seminary*

cup is presented by the Department of Sunday School Missions. And I just do wish you could have been there to hear the applause at the Commencement exercises this year when it was announced that Ingleside had for the third time won the cup and so, according to the plan, had it now 'for keeps.' But I've talked the whole evening and the 'half has not been told,' and since we're leaving town 'soon in the mo'nin', we must run along home."

"Yes, we must, but next year I'll expect to hear about the Daily Vacation Bible Schools your girls have had this summer."

"I'd like to broadcast it. And now, 'Till we meet again, goodnight and goodbye."

And another day was ended.